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Wildlife of the Caribbean

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Wildlife of the Caribbean

Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 2014. 304p. illus. index. \$19.95. ISBN 13: 978-0-691-15382-7.

Submitted Review:

Visitors flock to the Caribbean each year to enjoy the sandy beaches, warm sun, and natural beauty of the area. Travelers wanting to know more about the plant and animal life have been out of luck. There aren't any recent wildlife identification guides, and none that combine both plant and animal life, terrestrial and marine. Raffaele and Wiley solve this problem with *Wildlife of the Caribbean*, part of the Princeton University Press Pocket Guide series. Raffaele has worked in the Caribbean on conservation issues for over forty years and Wiley specializes in ornithological work in this region. They are both authors of the recent *Birds of the West Indies* (Princeton University Press, 2010). *Wildlife of the Caribbean* provides novice users an identification guide to the flora and fauna of the West Indies, including islands of the Bahamas, Greater and Lesser Antilles, Virgin Islands, and Cayman Islands. The text covers 451 terrestrial and marine mammals and plants based on their likelihood of being seen. The plant entries are generally a page in length, with animal entries being much shorter. Text is divided into "Key Features" and "Status and Range". One or more colored images is included with each species account to aid identification. Added features include a brief overview of the islands' geographic and biological features, along with common environmental threats and conservation practices. In its role as a pocket guide *Wildlife of the Caribbean* doesn't provide detailed information on the ecology or biological characteristics of species. However, for a recent identification guide of the area it has no equal. Recommended for libraries in the region, public libraries with broader collection interests, and academic libraries with a biological focus or study program in the Caribbean.—**By Kevin McDonough**